



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT ANNA  
729 NORTH MAIN STREET, ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906  
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JB PRITZKER  
GOVERNOR

ANGELA SIMMONS  
ADMINISTRATOR

LINDA CHAPA LAVIA  
DIRECTOR

May 12, 2020

To residents, family members or responsible parties, and staff of the Illinois Veterans Home at Anna:

We are committed to communicating with you in a timely, responsible, and transparent manner about COVID-19 (coronavirus). Building on Governor Pritzker's efforts to expand testing capacity statewide, all staff and residents were tested yesterday as a precaution. Today we want to inform you that five residents tested positive for COVID-19. None of the residents were showing symptoms at the time of testing. We are following the latest medical guidance to respond in coordination with local health officials and the Illinois Department of Public Health. The locations that could have been affected have already been cleaned several times. We are working with public health officials regarding possible quarantines and to ensure the full care, testing and protection of anyone potentially exposed.

As always, the health and safety of our veteran heroes and the devoted staff who care for them remains our top priority. We are following recommendations from state and local health officials to safeguard everyone at the facility. This includes continuing our health screenings of staff and residents, maintaining social distancing practices, wearing face masks, using gloves and gowns when indicated, and intensified cleaning and disinfection protocols. Residents continue to be encouraged to stay in their rooms to minimize movement within the facility. We are grateful to our team for remaining highly vigilant for signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and responding swiftly, appropriately, and professionally to any potential cases.

We understand this news can be distressing, which is why we encourage you to contact your loved ones for mutual support of one another. Our activities and social services staff continue to develop leisure activities, in accordance with safe social distancing practices, to care for the psychosocial wellbeing of our veterans. We promise to keep you informed as we do everything possible to keep our residents safe. Our military veterans and our wonderful home staff are strong and resilient people. With your continued support, we will get through this together.

Sincerely,  
Angela Simmons  
Administrator